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PEPPER, WILLIAM WESLEY
(1817–1861)
PAPERS
1833–1860

(THS Collection)

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INTRODUCTION

The William Wesley Pepper (1817–1861) Papers (1833–1860), lawyer; Tennessee legislator and Judge of the Circuit Court, State of Tennessee, Seventh Judicial District, were given to the Tennessee Historical Society by his grandson, Mr. Thomas Pepper, Springfield, Robertson County, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William Wesley Pepper Papers Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The William Wesley Pepper Papers containing approximately 75 items spans the period 1833–1860. The collection is composed of accounts, correspondence, legal documents (agreements, deeds, estate papers, powers-of-attorney, etc.), newspaper clippings, legal notes, and a few miscellaneous items. The accounts are for various items including a buggy and harness, subscriptions to various newspapers, groceries, household goods, clothing, medical accounts, promissory notes and receipts. The largest portion of the papers is composed of correspondence dealing with Tennessee politics, the Whig Party and certain legal matters. The correspondents include John Bell, Neill S. Brown, Sylvester Finley, Sam Golladay, Jo Conn Guild, Allen Hall, Gustavus A. Henry, R. W. Johnson, Hardin Shannon, and T. J. Turley. One letter was written by Zachary Taylor while in Mexico in which he stated the American Army would soon be in possession of Monterey. There is an issue of the *Nashville True Whig* for March 7, 1850, and a scrapbook contains items about Lewis Cass. Photostats of some letters describe the coat which Andrew Johnson made for William Wesley Pepper, together with a photograph. A few miscellaneous items compose the remainder of the papers.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Wesley Pepper

- 1817 July 10, born in Robertson County, Tennessee, son of William and Sarah (Powell) Pepper
- Limited schooling; apprenticed to a blacksmith at Cross Plains, Robertson County; read law while learning blacksmith trade
- 1840 Licensed to practice law at Springfield, Robertson County
- 1842 November 12, married Pernecy Young, daughter of A. B. and A. M. Young of Robertson County; one son, Young Pepper
- 1843 September 6, death of first wife
- 1845–1849 Member of 26th and 27th General Assemblies representing Robertson County as a Whig
- 1847 August 23, second marriage at Gallatin, Sumner County, to Mary F. Solomon, daughter of William H. and Frances A. (Smith) Solomon of Gallatin; one son, William Wesley, Jr.
- Practiced law, operated blacksmithing shop with father
- 1851 Elected Judge of Circuit Court and served until his death
- Trustee of Liberty Academy, Springfield; charter member of Springfield Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
- 1854 January 25, sent Governor Andrew Johnson a fire shovel made by him in good faith
- 1854 July 17, Andrew Johnson acknowledged gift by sending a coat he made
- 1861 February 1, died at Springfield; buried at Elmwood Cemetery

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts, 1833–1860
2. Correspondence – Armstrong - Finley
3. Correspondence – Golladay - Turley
4. Legal documents – agreements, deeds, powers-of-attorney, etc.
5. Newspaper clippings
6. Notes
7. Photograph of Burgess Askew wearing a coat tailored by Andrew Jackson.

Paperwork re: gift of coat to TSLA

8. Poetry

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the incoming correspondence in the William Wesley Pepper Papers Collection together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

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Bell, John (7), 1849-1857, re: political appointments; California and foreign missions; death of President Taylor; Whig Party; politics and government; A. A. Hall; Temple; B.S. Allen, 2
Bowling, James B., 1857, re: speech at Adairville, Kentucky, on subject of railroad, 2
Brown, N. S., 1850, re: efforts to serve Pepper, 2
Carroll, Thomas B., 1857, 2
Cox, Herman, 1852, re: Whigs, 2
Duggan, Wilson, 1851, re: Tennessee politics and government, 2
Ewing, Andrew, 1850, re: finances, 2
Finley, Sylvester (2), 1852, re: bankruptcy, 3
Guild, Josephus Conn, n. d., re: legal business, 3
Hall, Allen, 1849, re: Tennessee politics, 3
Henry, G.A., 1849, re: Tennessee politics, 3
Johnson, R. W. (2), 1859, 1860, re: Tennessee politics; Stewart County, 3
M'Ginty, E. P., 1851, re: W. B. Campbell's candidacy; prospectus of *True Whig*, 3
Meigs, R. J., 1857, re: legal judgments, 3
Minor, Lucian, 1851, re: legal judgments, 3
Pepper, W. E., 1851, re: sale of Negroes in Tennessee and Virginia, 3
Shackelford, J. O., 1849, re: legal matters, 3
Shannon, Hardin P., 1849, re: politics in East Tennessee; Whig prospects, 3
Sneed, John L. T., 1851, re: candidacy for Attorney General, 3
Soffarrans, Daniel, 1850, re: appointment in San Francisco, 3
Taylor, Zachary, 1846, re: not a resident of Tennessee; possession of Monterey, 3
Tedford, David, 1852, re: legal matters, 3
Turley, T. J., 1852, re: support of candidacy, 3